THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) At the UN Millennium Summit held in September 2000, 180 countries adopted the Millennium Development Goals as a Declaration.One of the goals is of eradicating extreme poverty which has set the target of halving the proportion of people whose income/consumption is less than one dollar a day between 1990 and 2015. In India as per the official estimates of poverty the percentage of population living below the poverty line has declined from 38.86 percent in 1987-88 to 26.10 percent in 1999-2000. Further, a reduction of poverty ratio by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012 has been outlined in the Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007).

The Tenth Five Year Plan which is presently under formulation would detail the efforts being made in this direction. While poverty reduction does not depend on funds alone, it may be mentioned that the Government of India has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty. It comprises of (i) accelerated economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes. Further, it is recognized that poverty can be effectively eradicated only with the active participation of the poor in the growth process. Therefore, social mobilization and empowerment of the poor through the Panchayati Raj Institutions, voluntary organization, Self Help Groups and other user groups has been taken up in order to improve delivery of the various development schemes including anti-poverty programmes.

Stock position of FCI Godowns

*740. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FCI godowns are overflowing and stocks of foodgrains lying in the open are rotting even as millions of poor people go hungry;

(b) if so, the details of FCI stocks as on the 31st March, 2002; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to dispose of the excess quantity of foodgrains during the last two years and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The storage capacity available with FCI as on 31.3.2002 was 358 lakh tonnes against which the stocks held by it were 288 lakh tonnes as per details given below:

Commodity	Quantity (lakh tonnes)
Wheat	72.17
Rice	208.34
Paddy	7.13
Others	0.36
TOTAL	288.00

Out of these stocks the quantity of damaged foodgrains was 1.96 lakh tonnes only.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to liquidate, *inter alia*, excess stocks of foodgrains during the last two years are indicated in Statement(*See* below). As a result of these measures, the offtake of foodgrains (wheat and rice) from the Central Pool has increased from 179.47 lakh tonnes in 2000-01 to 309.97 lakh tonnes (Provisional) in 2001-2002.

Statement

Measures taken by the Government of India to liquidate, *inter alia* excess stocks of foodgrains during the last two years.

1.4.2000

(i) The entitlement for BPL families was raised from 10kg. per family per month to 20 kg. per family per month from April 2000.

2.11.2000

(ii) It was decided to make foodgrains available at CIPs for BPL families for all welfare schemes, including SC/ST/OBC hostels scheme, implemented by various Ministries of he Government of India.

(iii) It was decided to make foodgrains available at BPL rates for allotment to State Governments @5 kg. per head per month for

covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions, such as Beggar Homes, Orphanages/Nari Niketans, etc. sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministries of the Government of India.

(iv) A decision was taken to make foodgrains available at BPL rates for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category) implemented by Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by international organizations like the World Food Programme.

(v) FCI was permitted to make wheat available from the Central Pool for the purpose of export. So far 62.23 lakh tonnes of wheat has been lifted by exporters.

1.12.2000

(vi) The number of BPL families eligible for subsidised foodgrains was revised w.e.f. 1.12.2000 on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000. This resulted in an increase of 56 lakhs in the number of BPL families.

25.12.2000

(vii) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana was announced for the poorest of the poor BPL families. The scheme is now under implementation in all States/UTs. Each of the Antyodaya families is entitled to receive 35 kg. of foodgrains @ Rs. 2 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg. for rice.

1.1.2001

(viii) The Food for Work Programme (FFW) was introduced in eight drought affected States in January, 2001. Under FFW foodgrains are allocated to State Governments free of cost. The programme was subsequently extended to cover floods and other natural calamities. From January 2001 till date 39.33 lakh tonnes of foodgrains under FFW have been allotted to 11 States.

29.1.2001

(ix) The Government of India allocated one lakh tonnes of foodgrains for distribution in the earthquake-affected areas of Gujarat on 29 January, 2001.

27.2.2001

(x) FCI was permitted to offer rice from the Central Pool for the purpose of export. The quantity of rice lifted by exporters so far is 26.58 lakh tonnes.

1.5.2001

(xi) It was decided to make additional allocation of foodgrains at BPL rates to drought affected States for distribution to all the drought affected families (BPL & APL) @ 20 kg. per family per month for a period of three months. The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan were allocated additional foodgrains aggregating 19.53 lakh tonnes. The Government of Bihar was given additional allocation of 1.80 lakh MTs of wheat at BPL rate for flood relief.

10.7.2001

(xii) It was decided to make available of wheat from the Central Pool for the purpose of export of wheat products.

12.7.2001

(xiii) The entitlement for BPL families was raised from 20 kg. per family per month to 25 kg. per family per month.

(xiv) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat and rice were reduced for the APL category as under:

(Rs. per quintal)

	APL
Wheat	610
Rice	830

15.8.2001

(xv) The Prime Minister announced the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) on 15th August 2001. The Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development on 25.9.2001. Under the programme, it is envisaged to utilize 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains every year. During 2001-02, 34.71 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was allocated to the State Governments under SGRY.

23.3.2002

With a view to further enhance food security and liquidate the stocks of foodgrains, the Government has approved the following proposals:

(i) To fix the scale of issue for APL, BPL and Antyodaya households @ 35 kg. per household per month and increase allocations to States/UTs accordingly.

(ii) To reduce the APL CIPs by Rs. 100 per qunintal in respect of rice and wheat for a period of three months.

(iii) To fix the scale of issue for all welfare institutions and hostels uniformly @ 15 kg. per head per month and make an additional allocation equal to 5% of BPL allocation of States/UTs at BPL CIP on this account.

(iv) To make open market sales of 50 lakh MTs of wheat and 10 lakh MTs of rice at prices to be determined by the existing High Level Committee of FCI.

(v) To increase export of wheat and rice, including lustre lost wheat, and provide WTO compatible subsidies for exports of wheat, wheat products and rice.

(vi) To fix no quantitative restrictions on the exports of rice, wheat and wheat products, subject to the condition that the stocks in the Central Pool will not be lower than the buffer stock of 243 lakh MTs (100 lakh MTs of rice and 143 lakh MTs of wheat) at any point of time.

(vii) To enter into counter trade and/or extend commodity assistance in the form of foodgrains to other countries on terms to be decided on a case-to-case basis.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Agro Export Zones

5246. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agro Export Zones set up in different parts of the country, State-wise;